

## ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a method and system for controlling access to a television set using a remote control unit having a  
5 finger verification means. The method includes the steps of:  
placing at least one finger on the remote control unit for  
scanning; obtaining fingerprint data indicative of the  
scanned finger; comparing the fingerprint data to  
predetermined reference data to establish a fingerprint  
10 match; and, if a match is established, providing access to a  
number of channels associated with the scanned finger. The  
system includes a fingerprint reader for generating  
fingerprint data; a processor programmed to prompt the user  
to enter fingerprint data; and, a fingerprint recognition  
15 means for verifying that the user is an authorized user of  
the remote control apparatus.